

**Minutes of the joint meeting of the  
Bedford Bicycle Advisory Committee and Transportation Advisory  
Committee**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2022**

**On Zoom**

BBAC members present: Samantha Baron, David Enos, Craig Jackson, Garth McCavana , Peter Weichman

BBAC members absent: Mark Bailey

TAC members present: Scot Shaw, Dawn Lafrance-Linden, Peter Bernhardt, Chris Gittens, Sandra Hackman

TAC members absent: Margot Fleischmann, Ann Marie Bernardon

Other participants: Ed Pierce, Select Board liaison; Jeanette Rebecchi, DPW; Dan Churella, resident; Charlie Ticotsky, special assistant to the town manager

A quorum was present for both committees, and the meeting came to order at 7:05 pm. Peter Weichman presided.

**DPW Report**

Ms. Rebecchi reported that the Minuteman Bikeway Extension project is proceeding very actively. As part of the public/private land ownership investigation, it was discovered that there were 100-plus-year-old lapsed easements related to the former railroad track. The Town wants to ensure a 22-foot-wide strip around the bike path, and this now requires Town purchase of 42 adjacent parcels of private land (likely a surprise to most owners).

The money will come from the Community Preservation Committee, and eminent domain will be instigated if required. This budget will need to be approved at the March 28 Town Meeting.

It would probably be useful to have a joint TAC–BAC letter of support published in the *Bedford Citizen* a couple of weeks prior, and a representative from each

committee should similarly speak at the Town Meeting. Handing out a flyer in conjunction with the upcoming Town election was also suggested.

Jeanette reported on various other planned and ongoing road and sidewalk projects. Craig raised the issue of large potholes that have formed on South Road that DPW should take care of.

MassDOT has some extra funds that will be spent on some minor improvements near the intersection of Old Burlington Road and Route 62, which would also extend pedestrian and bicycle accommodation.

A hired consultant is proceeding with a Great Road traffic-calming study.

#### Access to the Landlocked Forest

Peter Weichman raised the issue of access to the Landlocked Forest from Robinson Rd. Recent preparations for the next new home construction have served to effectively eliminate the primary access route. An official BAC letter was sent to Chris Laskey, code enforcement director, last September, urging restoration and improvement of the access through use of existing nearby easements. There has been no response.

Jeanette promised to connect BAC with Kristin Dowdy, DPW engineer, who works with the Trails Committee.

#### DPW–BAC Long-Term Relationship

Craig Jackson initiated a discussion of what BAC can do to better interact and help DPW with bike-related issues. Jeanette was very supportive, but had no specific recommendations other than maintaining open channels of communication.

#### Tree Removal Issues

Resident Dan Churella was admitted to the discussion to highlight an upcoming tree hearing. Several dozen trees need to be removed for the various sidewalk projects, a few of which are very old and large. He urged finding ways to preserve them.

#### Rapid Recovery Plan Funding

Charlie Tikotsky reported that a hired consultant has submitted a report with a list of ideas for benefiting local businesses in connection with Minuteman Bikeway users. A \$150K budget is available, and a coordinated tri-town project is being developed.

### Planning Board Priorities

Chris Gittens reported that the Planning Board has an April–May timeframe for collecting suggestions for new priorities. TAC will discuss this in detail at a later meeting.

### Other Business

Peter shared recent BAC ideas for upgrading the Narrow Gauge Trail. Some users would prefer that it be kept as natural as possible, but it would seem that improved access from Town center to the VA Hospital and the Lane School ought to have high priority. Samantha highlighted the trail segment used to access Lane School from the east side of Fawn Lake.

### Liaison Reports

Chris Gittens reported on Planning Board deliberations on housing developments. Each requires a traffic study. Craig urged the Planning Board to stay informed regarding the Pedestrian-Bicycle Master Plan, for which Chris expressed strong support.

Ed Pierce reported on various projects under consideration by the Select Board. A new fire station is being planned. There are proposals to convert the old one into a public arts/culture/historical/museum venue.

TAC and BAC motions to adjourn the meeting were made and seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.